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Advice **Hobo Fishing: Using Nets** (self.vagabond)

submitted 9 days ago by [huckstah](#) [Trainhopper](#) / [Hitchhiker](#)

Hobo Fishing: Using Nets

In a previous article, we discussed how hobos could utilize telescoping poles, hobo reels, stick poles, and even plastic bottles for cheap rod & reel combinations that can be used for fishing.

However, in this article, we are going to discuss a hobo fishing alternative that doesn't require any sort of rod/reel combination at all: Nets!

Net fishing techniques are as ancient as human civilization itself, and even today they are the still preferred methods for many fisherman. You literally don't even have to google whether these methods work, because these techniques have been used for thousands of years, from the ancient Polynesians, to the modern day Alaskan fishermen. Tried, Tested, and TRUE, even to this very day.

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Even better, especially for the low-budget traveler, nets are free to make, and much easier/lazier to use than using the conventional rod/reel methods.

What you'll need:

- String
- Plastic Bottle w/ Cap (or anything that floats)
- Weights (anything that doesn't float, duh)

There are several types of nets you can use for fishing, but one of the simplest to make and most successful to use is the Drift Gill Net.

- [Gill Net](#)

As you can see, a gill net is basically a net hanging in the water. Floats at the top of the net keep the net tight in the water, while weights at the bottom of the net keep the net sunk near the bottom of the water where fish are roaming.

Don't worry, you don't need actual "fishing floats" or "fishing weights" to make your gill net work effectively.

Making Your Net

If you've never made a net before, don't worry, it isn't nearly as complicated as you may assume, nor does it require most of the fancy tools that professional gill nets are made with.

However, EXPLAINING how to make a gill net is extremely complicated to describe using text, and for most of us, visual learning is far superior way to learn new things, so I'm going to include two videos that demonstrate how you can make your own

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a community for 5 years

gill net:

[Do-It-Yourself Guide to Making a Gillnet](#)

[Making a Net Using Paracord](#)

Finding Floats and Weights

Now, after you've made your net, it's time to find something to add as floaters on top, and weights at the bottom.

Think like a hobo! If you need something that floats, go to the garbage can and find some plastic bottles that still have their caps attached! No bottles? Perhaps there are some chunks of styrofoam, empty spray cans, anything that floats! Even a small piece of rotten wood will work!

As far as something that will sink, a few rocks will work just fine, or anything else you can find that sinks will work just fine.

Now that you have floaters and sinkers, tie your floaters to the top of the net, spacing each floater about 1-2 feet apart. Now add the weights to the bottom of your net, once again spacing each weight about 1-2 feet apart.

Using Your Net

Now that you've made a net, and attached your floats and weights, it's not time to put it in the water and start catching some fish.

Before you put the net in the water, find a tree on each side of the bank that you can tie the ends of your net to. After all, you don't want your net to float away in the water current.

Once you've tied your net to one tree, walk, wade, or swim across



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the stream to the other bank, and to off the other end of your net to another tree.

Keep in mind, when you are tying the ends of the net to the opposite banks, you want to keep your net "tight" and stretched out so that it can perform it's absolute best.

Now simply wait back, watch your net, and wait for the fish to swim downstream and get trapped into your net. If you see your floats violently bobbing up and down, that most likely means you have a fish, or perhaps several fish!

To retrieve your net, swim to the opposite bank, untie your net from the tree, and swim back across to the original bank with the net in your hand. Start dragging the net in, and retrieve your fish.

Once you've finished using your net, remove the floaters and weights, fold up your net in a way that it won't get tangled, and carry it with you till the next fishing adventure!

Super light-weight, compact, cheap to make, and a guaranteed way to catch fish!

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[-] _drybone 3 points 9 days ago

Wow, thanks for all these fishing guides, I have a lot of reading to do.

For anyone thinking about making nets, you can make a netting needle out of a stick shaped like this:

>===<

Then you wrap your cord on it and use that to tie your knots. It makes it easier to pass all the cordage through the

knots you're tying.

Of course netting needles are cheap and light. Not a bad addition to your gear if you actually use nets and know how to make them.

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